

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A structure comprising:
a first signal line;
a second signal line; and
a first shield line positioned between but separated from said first signal line and said second signal line, said first shield line being unconnected to a voltage source; and
a second shield line electrically connected to said first shield line by an electrically conductive via.
2. (Original) The structure of Claim 1 wherein said first signal line, said second signal line and said first shield line are all part of a single conductor layer.
3. (Original) The structure of Claim 1 wherein said first signal line, said second signal line, and said first shield line are each in a different conductor layer.
4. (Original) The structure of Claim 1 wherein said first shield line has an area sufficient to prevent said first shield line from causing capacitive coupling between said first signal line and said second signal line to be greater than if said first shield line was not present.
- 5-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The structure of Claim 5 1 wherein said first shield line is part of a first conductor layer and said second shield line is part of a second conductor layer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The structure of Claim 8 1 wherein said via is provided at a natural intersection of said first shield line and said second shield line.

10. (Currently amended) A structure comprising:
a substrate;
a first signal line above said substrate;
a second signal line above said substrate, wherein unused substrate surface area exists between said first signal line and said second signal line; ~~and~~
a first shield line in said unused substrate surface area, said first shield line being unconnected to a voltage source; and
a second shield line electrically connected to said first shield line by an electrically conductive via.

11. (Original) The structure of Claim 10 wherein a distance between said first signal line and said second signal line is at least equal to twice the minimum distance allowable between features plus the minimum allowable width of a feature.

12. (Original) The structure of Claim 10 wherein said first shield line has a width greater than the minimum allowable width of a feature.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The structure of Claim 10 wherein said first shield line has a first ~~portion~~ portion and a second portion, said first portion having a greater width than said second portion.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The structure of Claim ~~15~~ 10 wherein said first shield line is part of a first conductor layer and said second shield line is part of a second conductor layer.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The structure of Claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said via is provided at the natural intersection of said first shield line and said second shield line.

20-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The structure of Claim 1 wherein said voltage source is ground.

36. (Previously presented) The structure of Claim 10 wherein said voltage source is ground.

37. (Canceled)

Appl. No. 09/452,367
Amdt. dated July 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three replacement sheets of drawings correct minor informalities including those noted by the Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action and generally conform to USPTO drawing guidelines for FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Sheet one, which includes FIGS. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet one including FIGS. 1 and 2. Sheet two, which includes FIGS. 3 and 4, replaces the original sheet two including FIGS. 3 and 4. Sheet three, which includes FIG. 5, replaces the original sheet five including FIG. 5.

Attachments: Three Replacement Sheets